

Environmental Protection Fund

1441. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working on establishing an environment protection fund based on the principle that the pollutor contributes to the fund in proportion to its level of pollution;

(b) whether Government have decided to hike funds for water and soil conservation by 15.25 per cent; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the scheme and the thrust areas where additional sources would be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The concept of an environment protection fund at the national level is at a nascent stage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Board for Medicinal Plants

1442. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had a proposal to set up a National Board for Medicinal Plants;

(b) if so, the main objective of setting up this Board;

(c) the specific steps proposed to be taken by Government to regulate herbal products in the country; and

(d) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government would consider formation of a Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA:

(a) and (b) A proposal is being processed to set up a "Medicinal Plants Board" as an agency which would be responsible to coordinate all matters relating to the development of the Medicinal Plant Sector.

(c) The Government has amended schedule 'T' of Drugs & Cosmetic Rules, 1945 and notified Good Manufacturing Practices for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Medicines. Standards for formulation of single and compound drugs of each system are also being made and periodically included in the Pharmacopoeias.

(d) Does not arise.

Food Adulteration

1443. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Statesman dated 21st June, 2000; under the caption, "Menace of food Adulteration";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what concrete and immediate steps are proposed to be taken to address the problem of extensive adulteration of various eatable stuffs like fruits, vegetables, milk, aerated and mineral water, ghee, edible oil, pulses and condiments; and

(d) whether provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act are going to be made more stringent and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA:

(a) Yes, Sir:

(b) As per the information made available by the Food (Health)